

Claim 1 (currently amended): ~~A method of coding data~~ A computer program product for communication within a network, the method comprising:

code that receives ~~receiving~~ an 8b/10b source protocol data stream containing 10-bit code;

code that translates ~~translating~~ the data stream into an 8-bit code by converting the 10-bit code into 8-bit data and an ordered set, wherein the source 8b/10b protocol data stream is encapsulated in a frame;

code that segments ~~segmenting~~ the source protocol data stream at an unspecified length and time; ~~and~~

code that transmits ~~transmitting~~ the 8-bit code; and

a computer-readable storage medium for storing the codes.

Claim 2 (new): The computer program product of claim 1 wherein the frame is an 8-bit domain data block.

Claim 3 (new): The computer program product of claim 1 wherein the frame comprises a header identifying a sequence number.

Claim 4 (new): The computer program product of claim 1 wherein the code that receives data receives data from a Fibre Channel network.

Claim 5 (new): The computer program product of claim 1 wherein the code that translates the data stream maps the data.

Claim 6 (new): The computer program product of claim 1 wherein the code that translates data encodes management messages.

Claim 7 (new): A computer program product for aggregating different protocols into a single data channel, the product comprising:

code that receives a source protocol data stream comprising a plurality of input bits containing data and control information;

code that encodes the input bits to translate the data stream into a code containing bit data having a smaller number of bits than the code of the received signals, wherein the encoded bits contain data and ordered sets;

code that combines the encoded code with another data stream of encoded code having a different source protocol; and

a computer-readable storage medium for storing the codes.

Claim 8 (new): The computer program product of claim 7 wherein the code that combines the encoded code aggregates the encoded codes into a data channel in a DWDM system.

Claim 9 (new): The computer program product of claim 7 wherein the computer readable medium is selected from the group consisting of CD-ROM, floppy disk, tape, flash memory, system memory, hard drive, and data signal embodied in a carrier wave.

Claim 10 (new): A system for coding data for communication within a network, the system comprising:

processing means operable to receive an 8b/10b source protocol data stream containing 10-bit code and translate the data stream into an 8-bit code by converting the 10-bit code into 8-bit data and an ordered set; and

means for encoding and decoding data;

wherein the encoding and decoding means are configured to operate in cut-through mode.

Claim 11 (new): The system of claim 9 wherein the processor means is operable to create a frame comprising a block of 8-bit data that encapsulates the source 8b/10b protocol data stream.

Claim 12 (new): The system of claim 10 wherein the frame includes a header identifying a sequence number for the frame.

Claim 13 (new): The system of claim 11 wherein the frame header includes a protocol symbol character followed by up to three data characters.

Claim 14 (new): A system for aggregating different protocols into a single data channel, the system comprising:

- a processor operable to receive a source protocol data stream comprising a plurality of input bits containing data and control information;

- an encoder operable to encode the input bits to translate the data stream into a code containing bit data having a smaller number of bits than the code of the received signals, wherein the encoded bits contain data and ordered sets; and

- memory configured to at least temporarily store said code containing bit data;

- wherein the encoded code is combined with another data stream of encoded code having a different source protocol.

Claim 15 (new): The system of claim 14 wherein the processor is operable to create a frame comprising a block of 8-bit data.

Claim 16 (new): The system of claim 15 wherein the data stream is an 8b/10b protocol data stream and the 8-bit data encapsulates the data stream.

Claim 17 (new): A system for coding data for communication within a network; the system comprising:

- means for receiving an 8b/10b source protocol data stream containing 10-bit code;

- means for translating the data stream into an 8-bit code by converting the 10-bit code into 8-bit data and an ordered set;

- means for segmenting the source protocol data stream at an unspecified length and time;

and

means for transmitting the 8-bit code.

Claim 18 (new): The system of claim 17 further comprising means for encoding a protocol symbol in to 8-bit data.

Claim 19 (new): The system of claim 17 further comprising means for mapping data.

Claim 20 (new): The system of claim 17 wherein the translating means comprises means for encoding management messages.